



South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



VETERAN'S PROGRAMS AND SERVICES TO BE HEART OF SOUTH DAKOTA FOCUS

SDDVA Secretary Larry Zimmerman and VA Directors Darwin Goodspeed (SFVAHCS) and Sandra Horsman (VABHHCS) will be connecting with veterans on SDPB's "South Dakota Focus" program Thursday, Sept. 14, at 8:00 pm (CST).

The program will be an In-depth talk about the issues facing veterans and the programs and services available to them and their families.

You can [Watch live online](#). Or you can join the conversation by calling 1-877-825-5788 (1.877.talk.ptv).

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SDNG'S 147TH FIELD ARTILLERY TO CELEBRATE 100 YEARS

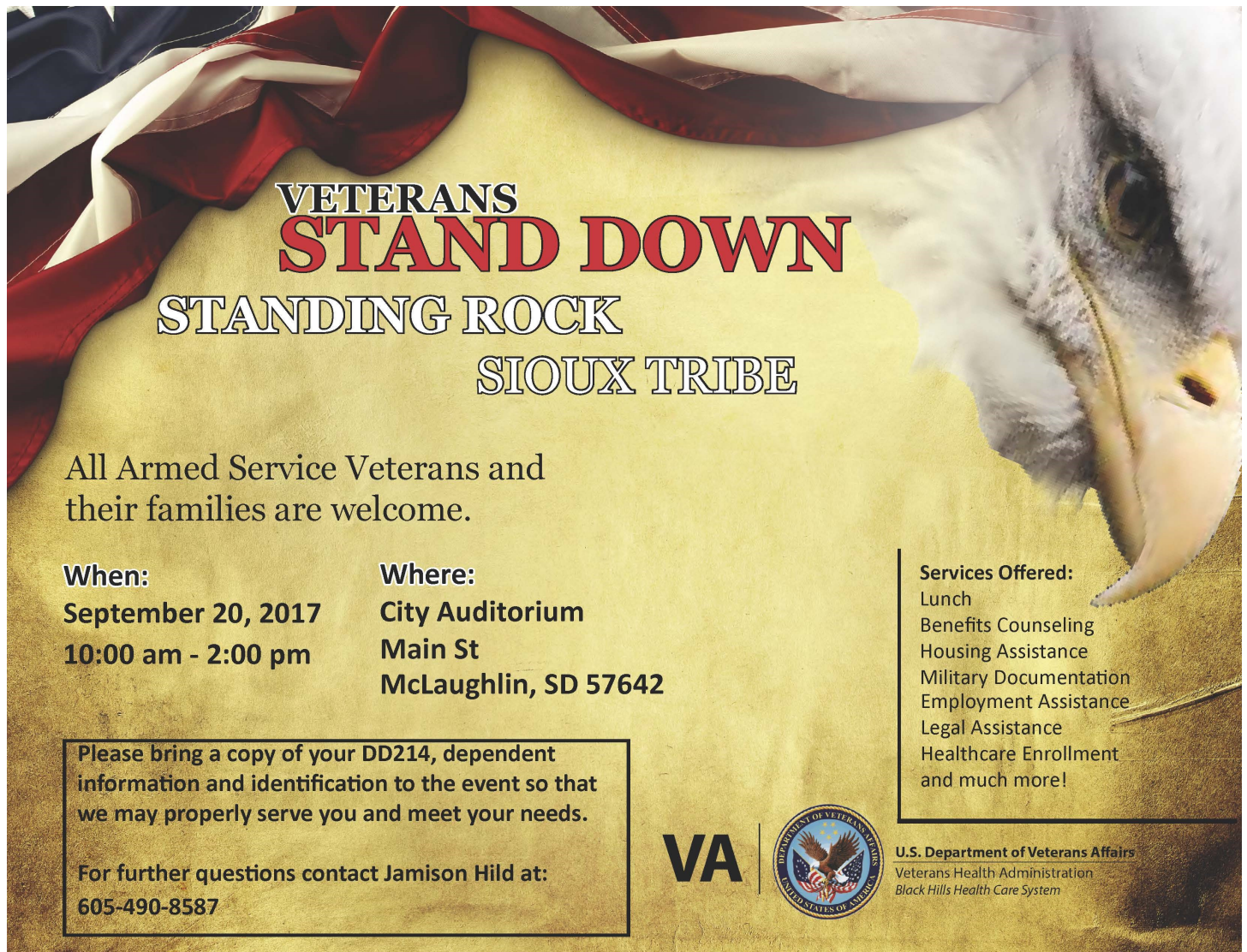
The South Dakota Army National Guard will celebrate 100 years of history of the 147th Field Artillery with an open house and ceremony at the Ernie Edwards Readiness Center in Watertown, Oct. 14.

The public is invited to join past and present 147th Soldiers as they celebrate this historic milestone for one of the longest serving units in the state. The 147th FA traces its formation back to Oct. 3, 1917, during World War I.

The open house will be from 12 p.m.–3 p.m. and will include historical displays, equipment displays, and field training demonstrations by members of the 147th Field Artillery Battalion.

A commemorative ceremony will begin at 3:15 p.m. detailing the lineage and distinguished service of 147th FA units and Soldiers who served as part of its history. The ceremony will be followed by a no-host social and meal at the V.F.W. Post #750 at 6 p.m.

For more information, please contact Sgt. 1st Class Adam Koll at 605-882-9324. Look for event updates and additional information on 147th's Facebook page at: fb.me/147FieldArtillery.



**VETERANS
STAND DOWN**
**STANDING ROCK
SIOUX TRIBE**

All Armed Service Veterans and their families are welcome.


When: September 20, 2017 10:00 am - 2:00 pm	Where: City Auditorium Main St McLaughlin, SD 57642
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Please bring a copy of your DD214, dependent information and identification to the event so that we may properly serve you and meet your needs.

For further questions contact Jamison Hild at:
605-490-8587

Services Offered:
Lunch
Benefits Counseling
Housing Assistance
Military Documentation
Employment Assistance
Legal Assistance
Healthcare Enrollment
and much more!

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Black Hills Health Care System

VABHHCS SUPPORTS VETERANS DURING SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH WITH “BE THERE” CAMPAIGN

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Black Hills Health Care System (BHHCS) is joining the VA and other community groups to focus on programs and initiatives to make suicide prevention everyone's business. The VA's "Be There" campaign continues to bring attention and support to prevention efforts, emphasizing the fact that one small act could save the life of a veteran or service member in crisis.

"We are not only guided by the statistics, but also the veterans we see in our health care system every day and those veterans who aren't using our services," said Sandra Horsman, Director, VA BHHCS. "It's up to all of us to learn how we can jump into action if we speak to someone who needs support."

In August 2016, the VA released a national suicide data report, *Suicide Among Veterans and Other Americans, 2001–2014*. The report was the most comprehensive analysis of veteran suicide rates in the United States, examining more than 55 million records from 1979 to 2014. The startling data indicated:

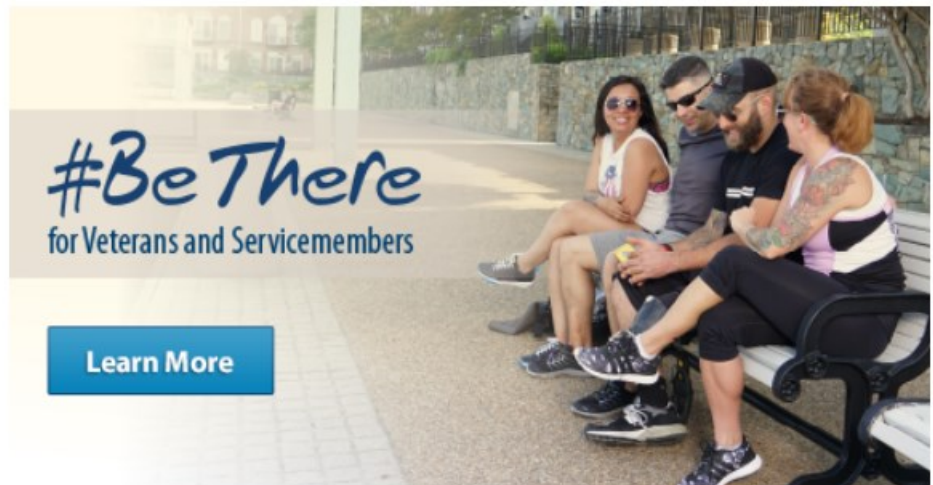
- An average of 20 veterans died from suicide each day. 6 of the 20 were users of VA health services in 2013 or 2014.
- Veterans accounted for 18% of all deaths from suicide among U.S. adults, while veterans constituted 8.5% of the US population.
- Approximately 67% of all veteran deaths from suicide were the result of firearm injuries.

Important VA resources include the Veteran Crisis Line, 1-800-273-8255, Press 1; online chat at <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net>, and texting to 838255.

VA BHHCS offers many services for veterans including resources for homeless Veterans, mental health counseling and special programs for women veterans and veterans of operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn.

For more on VA's Suicide Prevention resources, visit these websites:

<https://www.veteranscrisisline.net>, <https://maketheconnection.net>, www.va.gov.



BLACK HILLS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM & STANDING ROCK SIOUX TRIBE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS INVITE ALL VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR

VETERANS STAND DOWN

THIS EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE ON

SEPTEMBER 20, 21, 22, 2017

Services offered:

Clothing	Employment Services
Community Housing Referrals	Spiritual Services
Medical Treatment	VA Benefits/Claims
Women's Health Care	Eligibility/Photo IDs
Readjustment Counseling	Suicide Prevention
Non VA Care/Choice	SD Veterans Home
Telehealth	HPDP-Health Promotion Disease Prevention

EVENT SCHEDULE

BEAR SOLDIER	CITY AUTORIUM	WED	9/20, 2017	1000 HRS to 1400 HRS/CT
KENEL	COMMUNITY CENTER	THURS	9/21, 2017	0900 HRS TO 1130 HRS/CT
WAKPALA	COMMUNITY CENTER	THURS	9/21, 2017	1300 HRS TO 1530 HRS/CT
ROCK CREEK	COMMUNITY CENTER	FRI	9/22, 2017	0900 HRS TO 1130 HRS/CT
RUNNING ANTELOPE AMERICAN LEGION POST		FRI	9/22, 2017	1300 HRS TO 1530 HOURS

➤ PLEASE BRING A COPY OF YOUR DD214, MEDICAL CARD, DEPENDENT INFORMATION, AND OTHER IDENTIFICATION SO THAT WE MAY PROPERLY SERVE YOU.



ENJOY YOUR FREEDOM?

THANK A VETERAN

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

MANAJA HILL, TRIBAL VETERAN'S SERVICE OFFICER 701-854-8527
DAVID HARRISON, TRIBAL VETERAN'S SERVICE OFFICER 701-854-8589
JAMISON HILD, VA-VETERANS OUTREACH 605-490-8587

ALL TIMES ARE CENTRAL TIME NOT MOUNTAIN TIME

MESSAGE FROM SDDVA SECRETARY ZIMMERMAN—REAP THE HARVEST

For centuries, the arrival of autumn has been celebrated at the end of the growing season, commemorating all the hard work. It is an opportunity to look back and see what has been accomplished and what lies ahead for us.

A full cornucopia is a good sign of the bounty of harvest. In looking at what our team has accomplished from planting through harvest this season; I'd say our cornucopia is bursting. With a little germination, we grew our day-to-day goals of obtaining the maximum benefits for our veterans and their families. We supported and assisted war time and peace time veterans as well as reached out to educate, reintegrate, and facilitate the claims for those who have recently served.

Our outreach efforts yielded great results. The Department consistently put forth significant effort to enhance and expand its already extensive outreach operations. In August, we had the honor to address veterans at the Veterans Day at the State Fair and the Healing Wall ceremony in Chamberlain, as well as participate in numerous screenings of "The Vietnam War," the new 10-part documentary film series. We honored 52 South Dakota veterans for their service in Taiwan and awarded them the Republic of China mutual defense commemorative badge.

Our education team assisted veterans to secure all of their educational benefits, as well as enlist them in the on-the-job training and apprenticeship programs.

Our team at Michael J Fitzmaurice Veterans Home embodied the mission to honor and serve our heroes by providing high quality care in a setting that promotes dignity, independence, and a home like environment.

Fall brings many colors to our world in South Dakota. These very same colors play a role in the lives of our service members – ribbons, awards, medals, dress uniforms, daily uniforms, physical training uniforms, and vehicles for the environment they are sent to fight in. Colors are why we stand at ceremonies, games, and at our goodbye to our heroes at their last rights. Colors are an integral part of service to our country and our red, white and blue flag we fight for.

Fall is a time to reap the benefits of our harvest, and enjoy the rich brown, yellow, and red leaves scattered about. It's also a great time to remember and honor our prisoners of war and our missing in action. Governor Dugaard has designated September 15 as National POW/MIA Recognition Day in South Dakota. They suffered the horrors of being a prisoner of war and those whose fates were never accounted for. They are our heroes, please honor them.





Thursday, October 5th • 12:30pm ~ 4:00pm
Bethlehem Lutheran Church • 1620 NE Milwaukee Ave
FREE ADMISSION

A *free* informative health fair for those looking for resources, programs, and services provided in the area

- ◊ **Screenings & testing available on site**
- ◊ **Free refreshments & door prizes**
- ◊ **Flu shots available ~ bring your Medicare card**

Featured expert speakers discussing:
Mental Health & Art Therapy • Living a Healthy Lifestyle
Caregiving • Technology • and more!

Volunteers on hand to help with tech issues ~ bring your smartphone, tablet or e-reader

For more information, contact Julie at 225-2550

FREE Respite Care Available
Bethesda Adult Day Health Center • 1403 15th Ave SE
Call 225-7602 to pre-register by September 28th

SEPTEMBER MARKS SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

The message from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to the friends and families of veterans during Suicide Prevention Month is simple: Be There.

"We know that in 2014, an average of 20 Veterans a day died in this country from suicide, which is 20 too many," said VA Secretary David J. Shulkin. "This is a national public health crisis requiring a national public health approach. When it comes to preventing Veteran suicide, the VA can't – and should not – do this alone."

Each VA facility will also be asked to commit to ***Be There***, ensuring veterans get the mental health support they need through a "no wrong door" philosophy. The VA declaration promises:

- To adopt a "no wrong door" philosophy for suicide prevention so every VA employee will assist veterans in need;
- To work with our Community Veteran Engagement Boards or other community partner in suicide prevention efforts;
- To establish a "buddy system" so veterans can reach out to someone when needed;
- To continue implementation of Press 7, for our telephone systems, where feasible, to provide immediate access to the Veterans and Military Crisis Line
- To establish open access in our facility mental health clinics and same day access in our community based mental health clinics within six months, to ensure prompt attention to the needs of our veterans;
- To work across clinical specialties to ensure veterans receive integrated specialty pain management and sleep services as needed;
- To ensure all staff and employees clinical suicide prevention training;
- To arrange appointments for Veterans seeking care through Enhanced Enrollment procedures; and
- To increase the number of veterans and providers connecting through our Telemental Health services.

A suicide prevention toolkit is being distributed around the country to stakeholders and community partners and can be viewed at:

<https://www.va.gov/nace/docs/myVAoutreachToolkitPreventingVeteranSuicidesEveryonesBusiness.pdf>.

A number of partnerships will be announced including a national network of volunteer professionals at [Give an Hour](#) to expand community-based mental health services for veteran and military communities.

- Outreach efforts will target communities and military units that are experiencing high rates of suicide. We are not waiting until they are in crisis.
- VA is continuing its work with the Department of Defense to identify at-risk service members and enroll them for VA care and engage them through community programs before they transition out of the military, with a day planned in which employees of both departments will be encouraged to wear the same color to show commitment to suicide prevention.
- Month-long social media events are planned including a Thunderclap, twitter and blog posts; Instagram; Facebook live and other social media events targeted at suicide prevention.

Veterans in crisis can call the Veterans Crisis Line for confidential support 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year at 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1.

Upcoming Events

Sept 9-10—PVA Trap Shoot—Crooks Gun Club—Sioux Falls
Sept 11—Doug Brown Memorial Pheasant Hunt (Top Gun Hunting Ranch—Howard)
Sept 11—VA Black Hills Mental Health Summit
Sept 11—Women Veterans Art Exhibit Open House—Brown County Court House—Aberdeen—4:00 pm (CST)
Sept 13—Women Veterans Art Exhibit Open House—Watertown Elks Lodge—600 E. Kemp Ave—4:00 pm
Sept 14—Watertown Veterans/First Responders Appreciation Day—SD Army National Guard, BG Ernie Edwards Readiness Center
Sept 15 POW/MIA Program—Sioux Falls Veterans Memorial Park—6:30 pm (CST)
Sept 18—Women Veterans Art Exhibit Open House—Wagner SDNG Armory—4:00 pm (CST)
Sept 20—Veterans Council Meeting—PVA Headquarters (209 N. Garfield in Sioux Falls) 10:00 am (CST)
Sept 20—VA Veterans Stand Down—McLaughlin City Auditorium (Main Street) - 10:00 am—2:00 pm (CST)
Sept 20—VA Veterans Stand Down—Bear Soldier City Auditorium—10:00 am—2:00 pm (CST)
Sept 21—VA Veterans Stand Down—Kenel Community Center—9:00 am—11:30 am (CST)
Sept 21—VA Veterans Stand Down—Wakpala Community Center—1:00 pm—3:30 pm (CST)
Sept 22—VA Veterans Stand Down—Rock Creek Community Center—9:00 am—11:30 am (CST)
Sept 22—VA Veterans Stand Down—Running Antelope American Legion Post—1:00 pm—3:30 pm (CST)
Sept 22—Veterans Stand Down—VFW Post 628—Sioux Falls (3601 S. Minnesota Ave)—9:00 am (CST)
Sept 24—Gold Star Mothers Day
Sept 25—Women Veterans Art Exhibit Open House—VA Sioux Falls (2nd Floor Primary Care Addition—4:00 pm (CST)
Sept 26-28 National Women Veterans Art Exhibit—VA Sioux Falls—9:00 am—3:00 pm (CST)
Sept 25-26—Aim to Win—Hunters Pointe Shooting Complex—Humboldt
Sept 29—Women Veterans Conference—Central Baptist Church—Sioux Falls—10:00 am (CST)
Oct 5—Aberdeen Area Healthy Aging Resource Fair—Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Aberdeen (1620 NE Milwaukee Avenue) - 12:30—4:00 pm (CST)
Oct 6-8—Fall VFW Conference—Oacoma—Cedar Shores
Oct 7—Homecomings for VFW State Commander Williamson and VFW State Auxiliary President Alm—Cedar Shores—Oacoma—6:00 pm (CT)
Nov 4—Public Agent Orange Forum—Meade County Court House in Sturgis (2nd Floor Commissioners Chambers—1300 Sherman Street) 9:00 am and 1:00 pm (MT)
Nov 9-13—VFW Disabled Veterans Hunt—Gettysburg
Nov 11—SDSU Military Appreciation Day—Kickoff at 2:00 pm (CT)
Nov 11—American Heroes Outdoors Veterans Day Banquet—Aberdeen Elks Lodge 1046—5:00 pm (CST)
Nov 11-12—Sea of Goodwill Equine Experience Retreat—Joy Ranch—Watertown
Dec 2-3—Yellow Ribbon for the 153rd EN—Mitchell

Upcoming Events

2018

Jan 28-29—VFW Legislative Conference—Ft. Pierre

Feb 16-18 American Legion Mid Winter Conference—Oacoma

Jun 7-10—American Legion State Convention—Spearfish

Jun 14-17—VFW State Convention—Sioux Falls

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